**Romeo & Juliet Webquest English9**

**By: Alex Dolnack.**

**About Shakespeare**  
Click on [this link](http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/timeline/timeline.htm) and answer the following questions (1-7).

1. Click on the link to Birth 1564 & Early Years. William Shakespeare was born in what year? **Shakespeare was born in 1564.**
2. What date do we recognize as his birthday? **We recognize his birthday as April 23.**
3. What was important about Stratford-upon-Avon in the 16th century? **It was an agricultural and market place.**
4. Click on the link for 1594 and find the acting companies Shakespeare was associated with in the early days. Name one. **One of his acting companies was Lord Strange’s men.**
5. Click on 1599 The Great Globe. What is the probable year that Romeo and Juliet was written? **Romeo and Juliet was probably written in 1595.**
6. Scroll down to the section "Construction of the Globe," and answer these questions:
   1. Where did the timbers to build the Globe come from? **They took apart The Theatre, a public theatre across the river.**
   2. Who was the carpenter who built the Globe? **The carpenter was Peter Smith.**
   3. What was Shakespeare's share as "householder?" **His share was** **one fifth of 50%, or 10% of profit.**
7. What day and year did Shakespeare die? Why is this an *interesting* date? How old was Shakespeare when he died? **He died on April 23 1616, which is what we presume to be his birthday. He was 52 years old.**

**About Marriage**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html) and answer the next questions (8-10).

1. Romeo & Juliet marry secretly, but because she is trying to escape the arranged marriage to Paris. Read this site about marriage in Elizabethan England and answer these questions.
   1. What does betrothal mean? **A contract that begins a marriage.**
   2. Name three marriage and betrothal customs found on this page.

**a. The two people hold hands, and the man gives the woman a ring to be worn on her right hand.**

**b. The contract is sealed with a kiss and signatures.**

**c. A wedding was based on consent, exchange of tokens, and consummation.**

1. Click on the link for "more wedding customs."
   1. What color should the bride's dress be? **Not white; any current or fashionable color.**
   2. How is the intention to marry announced? What happens if it is not announced previous to the event? **It is announced 3 times at the same church (not on the same day, however). If it is not announced, it is considered illegal.**
   3. Describe the wedding procession. **The bride, bridesmaids, groom, families, and guests all assemble and go to the church. If the groom is not already with the bride, he meets her at the altar or at the side of the church.**
   4. What is a dowry? **The amount of money, goods, and property the bride brings to the marriage.**
2. Explain how important is a wedding ring to the Elizabethans? **It is very important (?); it is a contract that begins the marriage at the betrothal.**

**About Food**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/46.html) and continue (11-13).

1. How many meals do people generally eat each day? **2; one at 11:00 or 12:00, and one at 6:00.**
2. Click [here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/38.html). Why would people in Shakespeare's day not know what a chocolate chip cookie is? **Because chocolate was not commonly used, sugar was expensive, and vanilla was not used either.**
3. Lord Capulet throws a huge party, feast and all. Imagine you are in charge of that menu. Luckily for you, today you only have to plan a menu for a small dinner party. Be sure to use only [food available in Europe](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/47.html) during this time. Choose at least two vegetables, two meats, and two fruits or nuts.
   1. **Two Meats**- **Beef and cod.**
   2. **Two Vegetables- Spinach and garlic.**
   3. **Two Fruits/Nuts- Apples and dates.**

**About Language**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/20.html) and continue (14-16).

1. A famous line from Romeo and Juliet is when Juliet says, "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" What does "wherefore" mean? **It means “why”.**
2. What does "stay" mean? **It means “to wait”.**
3. [Click here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/29.html) to get the information you need to translate this conversation. Put your translation in column two. Keep the phrases just about the same, but use Elizabethan words where you can. So, in other words, you rewrite the entire phrase but replace as many words as you can using Elizabethan English.

|| **Person A** || Hello. (A sneezes) Excuse me.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Person B** | Gesundheit! |  |
| **A** | Thank you. **Gramercy.** |  |
| **B** | Say, do you know where the closest bathroom is? **Say, do you know where the closest privy is?** |  |
| **A** | Certainly. It's down the street in the Kings Tavern. **Certes. It’s down the street in the Kings Tavern.** |  |
| **B** | Thanks. Goodbye. **My thanks. Goodbye.** |  |

**About Theatre in Shakespeare's Time**  
"[Actors, Acting, & Audience](http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/englisch/shakespeare/)" is the link for the next questions (16-19).

**Could not find answers for these.**

1. How many women actors did the company usually feature?
2. Was Shakespeare an actor? What was the term used to refer to actors?
3. How were the seating arrangements for the audience? How did one get a good seat?
4. What would the audience do if they did not like a performance?

**Shakespearean Insults**

1. Go to the [Shakespearean Insult Kit](http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/dryfoo/Funny-pages/shakespeare-insult-kit.html) and create your own insult. How you do it is to start with the word "Thou." Next, take a phrase/word from the first column to begin your insult, continue by adding something from the second column, and finish it up royally with something from the third column. Type your own personal Shakespearean insult in the table below. [Thou + choice from column 1 + choice from column 2 + choice from column 3 = your custom made insult].

**Thou art a spleeny hell-hated mammet.**